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greatest number of endemic forms related to species which are rare elsewhere, and this seems to be true in the case of this flora. Indeed it would seem that the endemic forms belong chiefly to families which show the largest number of endemics elsewhere in Ceylon.

In his second paper, Dr. Willis attempts to show that the differentiation of endemic species cannot be due to the action of natural selection on infinitesimal variations. The arguments are:—

The distinguishing characteristics cannot be shown to have any adaptive value. The endemic forms are often associated with the species from which they have probably been derived. They have not supplanted them as they would if evolved by the selection of special adaptations. The distribution of endemics is narrower than that demanded by their environmental conditions, and corresponds rather with that resulting from an origin by mutation.

In conclusion the author remarks:—“The evidence is not so absolutely in favor of mutation as it is against selection of infinitesimal variations, but at present the mutation theory is the only one in the field which can be invoked to explain the facts.”

J. ARTHUR HARRIS

Lock on Progress in the Study of Variation, Heredity and Evolution.¹

— This attractive little volume contains two introductory chapters on the general conceptions of evolution, one on the theory of natural selection, one on biometry and one on the theory of mutation. The three chapters following these are devoted to a discussion of the results from investigations of hybridization. One of these is essentially an historical sketch of the work of the older hybridists. The two succeeding chapters treat of Mendelism, to the literature of which the author has already made valuable contributions. In chapter ten he discusses the bearing of recent cytological investigations upon the problems of heredity. A final chapter sums up and discusses the general bearing of the subjects treated.

That the author is a mutationist appears from even a casual reading of a few pages. The style is simple and for the most part very clear as are also the diagrams which serve as illustrations. A few excellent half tones, particularly the portraits of Darwin, Galton, DeVries, Kölreuter, and Mendel, add much to the attractiveness of the book. Possibly the author might have found a much more weighty quotation for his closing pages than one from Bernard Shaw.

¹ Lock, R. H. *Recent Progress in the Study of Variation, Heredity and Evolution*. London, John Murry, 1906. xiii + 299 pp.

The work can be regarded only as an introduction to the modern experimental and biometric study of evolution, since much space is devoted to elementary principles, but it is a commendable effort to bring the newer work before a wide circle of readers.

J. A. H.

Notes.—*The origin of the cow-pea* has been investigated by Wight (*U. S. Dept. of Agric., Bur. of Pl. Ind., Bull. 102. 1907.*) who concludes that this legume is a native of India and the region northward to the trans-Caspian district. Its cultivation in that region is very ancient and it also extended to China at an early period. As early as the beginning of the Christian era it was known in Arabia and Asia Minor and was cultivated in at least one of the countries of southern Europe at about the same time. Its introduction into central Europe occurred much later and independently. It seems to have been introduced into the West Indies in the latter half of the seventeenth century and probably reached the mainland during the first half of the eighteenth century.

Statistical Methods.—Elderton¹ has published a small volume treating in detail some of the less generally known biometric methods. Biologists working with the more refined statistical methods will find it very helpful.

The presidential address before the section of Economic Science and Statistics of the British Association (*Rep. Brit. Ass., 76: 629–642. York, 1906.*) is a plea for scientific method in statistical research. While primarily of interest to students of social problems, statistical biologists will be interested in some of the arguments.

Notes on Economic Botany.—The second volume of the handbook of sugar cane culture and cane sugar manufacture for Java (*Handboek ten Dienste van de Suikerriet-Cultuur en de Rietsuiker-Fabricage op Java. Amsterdam. 1906*) published by the associated sugar experiment stations of east and west Java, has just appeared. This elegantly illustrated volume is devoted to the animal enemies of the sugar cane and their parasites.

Takeushi (*Bull. Coll. Ag. Imp. Univ. Tokyo. 7:465–468. 1907*) discusses the chemical composition of the shoots of *Aralia cordata*,

¹Elderton, W. P. *Frequency Curves and Correlation. 1907. London. Charles and Edwin Layton. xiii + 172 pp.*